



# U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING AGENCY (ACA) NEWSLETTER

## "OUR TEAM IS GROWING"

Volume 1, Issue 10

February 2003

### PRESIDENTS DAY



Until 1971, both February 12 and February 22 were observed as federal public holidays to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and George Washington (February 22). In 1971 President Richard Nixon proclaimed one single federal public holiday, the Presidents' Day, to be observed on the 3rd Monday of February, honoring all past presidents of the United States of America.



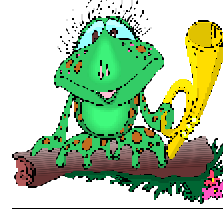
GEORGE WASHINGTON (February 22, 1732 - December 14, 1799). Early in his life George Washington became an experienced surveyor. Following these years, he fought in the French and Indian War. After the war he returned to Mount Vernon in 1758, married Martha Dandridge in 1759, and became a planter. That same year he became involved in politics when he was elected representative to the Virginia House of Burgesses. He was a representative until 1774 when he became a delegate to the Continental Congress. In May of 1775 George Washington was appointed Commander of the American army during the Revolution. He was the first President, (1789-1797) governing the 13 states.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN (February 12, 1809 - April 15, 1865). Abe Lincoln was born into a poor family and had little formal schooling. He basically taught himself to read and write and walked long distances to borrow books. He failed in early business and political ventures yet became President in 1861 and guided the Union through the Civil War. He shaped his own character and education as was evident in the simple language he used in his speeches. His famous Gettysburg Address was delivered in 1863. Lincoln was assassinated on April 15, 1865 during a performance at Ford's Theatre in Washington just a few days after General Robert E. Lee and his army surrendered.



## **Update: Section 803 – “Competitive Basis” for Service Orders**



On October 25, 2002, the DAR Council issued a change to the DFARS addressing how orders for services over \$100,000 are placed against multiple award contracts, including Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) contracts. The rule implements Section 803 of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2002. Section 803 mandates a new competitive standard for DOD orders (and orders placed by non-DoD agencies on behalf of DOD) for services over \$100K. It includes all task orders under FSS, FSS Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) and other multiple award contracts. Section 803 was enacted because Congress believes DOD has not maintained a competitive environment throughout the life of multiple award contract vehicles. GAO and service audits have found that agencies are not providing "fair opportunity" to compete as envisioned under FAR 16.505. In fact, competition has actually declined. There are two different approaches to be followed one for FSS Orders and the other for all other orders under a multiple award schedule.

For FSS contracts, DOD contracting officers (and non-DoD agencies placing orders on behalf of DoD) must provide fair notice of the agency's intent to make the purchase, including a description of the work to be performed and the basis for award, to as many schedule contractors as possible, consistent with market research appropriate to the circumstances. The competition requirement is not satisfied unless such notice is given and the contracting officer receives offers from at least three contractors that can fulfill the work requirements.

For orders under multiple award contracts other than FSS, the contracting officer must provide fair notice to ALL contractors offering the service under multiple award contracts. Fair notice includes providing a description of the work the contractor will be required to perform and the basis upon which the contracting officer will make the selection. Set-Asides are prohibited for orders under multiple award contracts. The statutory language is specific that the notice must be provided to ALL contractors.

In December 2002, GSA Federal Technology Service issued a newsletter that addressed how their FAST 8(a) contracts would operate under Section 803. The FAST 8(a) contracts are multiple award, indefinite quantity contracts awarded under the provisions of Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15.U.S.C. 637(a)) and FAR part 19.8. GSA claims that based upon the statutory authority for directed 8(a) awards to be placed at or below the \$3M competition threshold, the contracting officer may waive competition. We have been unable to verify GSA's claims with respect to the statutory authority. Informal coordination with the DAR Council indicates that there is no

exception for 8(a) s under the fair notice to ALL. We are still researching this issue but until such time as we obtain complete clarification, contracting personnel are advised to continue to comply with the requirements in DFARS 216.505-70.

The General Accounting Office and Congress along with industry will be closely watching how the Defense Department implements the Section 803 requirements. It is imperative that contracting officers and requirements personnel perform thorough market research analyses to ensure meaningful competition.

Kathy Love, Procurement Analyst, 703-681-7560

## ..... PERSONNEL UPDATE INFORMATION

The Army has consolidated all resumes maintained by the Northeast, Southwest, South Central and North Central Civilian Personnel Operations Centers into one central database called Resumix. Effective 13 January 2003, the Department of the Army no longer uses Easy ACCES for Career Programs positions. Only one resume is needed to be considered for all Regions' Resumix announcements. All Easy ACCESS registrants must have a resume on file in the Central Resumix database in order to receive consideration for jobs and they **must** self-nominate for each vacancy announcement in which the registrant is interested. This is a change from ACCES: you will **not** get a self-notice of vacancy announcement automatically from Resumix. However, USAJOBS offer a notification service where one can elect to be notified by email of new vacancy announcements of interest posted to the USAJOBS web site. To utilized this service go to <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> and click on the *USAJOBS by email* link.

The Army Civilian Resume Builder is the preferred method for preparing a resume and supplemental data sheet for submission to any Army Resumix database. The use of the Army Resume Builder ensures that your resume is developed in a uniform manner and conforms to the proper format for processing. It is also the most efficient way to get your resume into the Central Resumix database. However, it is not the only method, it can be faxed or included as e-mail text (but not as an e-mail attachment)

After you have a resume on file, you will submit self-nominations to indicate your interest in announced positions. Each time you wish to "apply" for a position, you will submit a self-nomination. The self-nomination contains information related to the position you are applying for (announcement number, position title, series, and grade). In addition, it contains your name and Social Security Number that are used to match the self-nomination to your resume. This must be done regardless of whether the USA job notification feature is used.

When you self-nominate for a position, one resume will be used to determine your qualifications and eligibility for each position for which you are considered. It is not necessary to submit multiple resumes. The information in your resume and supplemental data are used to determine whether your resume will be forwarded to the selecting official

for consideration. Your resume should include the necessary experience, education, and training that will qualify you for positions for which you have self-nominated. Supplemental documentation is not needed when you submit your resume unless specifically required by the announcement. If you are selected for a position where supplemental documentation is needed, you will be asked to provide it within 5 working days from notification of selection.

For additional information please go to <http://cpol.army.mil/> and click on the *Employment* link, then click on *Frequently Asked Questions* link.

Kathleen Walker-Starks/703 681-1049



**FIELDING THE DEFENSE TRAVEL SYSTEM IN ACA ORGANIZATIONS:** The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller) is fielding the Defense Travel System throughout the Department of the Army. The Defense Travel System is the Department of Defense approved travel system for travelers who perform the most common types of temporary duty travel as authorized by law. The Army, Defense Travel System Project Management Office is coordinating with Army major commands and agencies on fielding milestones. Fielding involves training, gathering, and structuring organization and personnel data, and live process verification. ACA organizations will be fielded on the milestone schedule listed at URLs below. We must field on this schedule to avoid costs. Failure to field at the points in time DA is fielding will require ACA to pay the cost of deployment.

PMO-DTS Web Site Home Page:

DTS-Army Home Page: <http://www.asafm.army.mil/fo/fod/dts/dts.asp>

DTS Deployment Plan: <http://www.defensetravel.osd.mil/dts/site/downloads.jsp>

DTS-Army Deployment Schedule (Phases 1 & 2) & FY 03 Deployment Schedule Details: <http://www.asafm.army.mil/fo/fod/dts/dts-cl/dtscui/si/si.asp>

DTS Training Data: <http://www.defensetravel.osd.mil/dts/site/section.jsp?sid=4>

Each ACA Region/Command will be responsible for ensuring their AOR is fielded. I will serve as the ACA POC. We will periodically provide additional information as needed. In the mean time we recommend Regional/Command Points of Contacts review the web sites listed above to obtain a better understanding of the Defense Travel System.

Bruce Trimble, 703-681-7574



## **.....MARCHING ON.....**

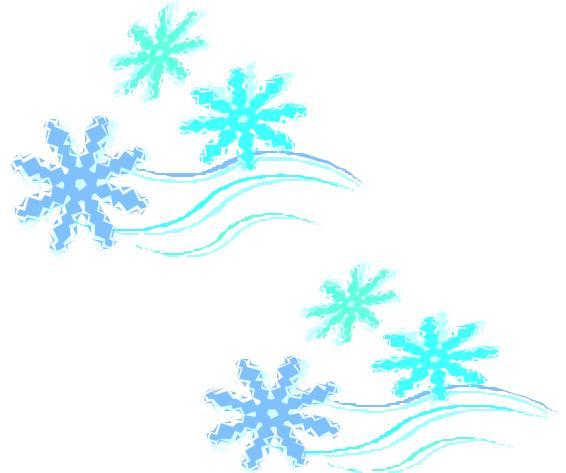
***By David Wild, ACA NR, Fort Riley &  
Diane Broadway, ACA NRHQ***

Mrs. Carole E. Blixt, Director, Directorate of Contracting (DOC), Fort Riley, Kansas, retired 31 January 2003 after nearly 32 years of service to the Army. Carole was officially recognized at the installation-wide retirement ceremony 29 January where she was presented with the Superior Civilian Service Award. The directorate honored her distinguished career during an open house on 31 January. A highlight of the week's activities was a visit from Beverly Stevens, Northern Region Deputy Director, who extended congratulations and presented Carole a gift on behalf of the Northern Region.

As Director of the Fort Riley DOC, Mrs. Blixt was a trusted advisor and key staff member to the Garrison Commander and the Commanding General on acquisition/contracting matters. She supervised a staff of 25 Appropriated Fund and 2 Non-Appropriated Fund employees. She served on numerous boards and councils on the installation including the Executive Partnership Council, Awards Board, Installation Organizational Self Assessment Team, and the Award and Solicitation Review Board. Mrs. Blixt skillfully engineered implementation of Acquisition Reform policies and procedures while managing a 44 percent reduction in staff during the 1995 through 2003 timeframe.

Mrs. Blixt spent the past 22 years in the acquisition career field. She worked in a variety of supervisory, managerial and leadership positions in several functional areas within her organization. Her career began as a GS-03 Card Punch Operator and, after working her way through the ranks, she leaves as a GS-14 Director of Contracting. Two unique assignments were the "standing up" of Fort Riley's first Installation OMB A-76 Program for critical mission maintenance support, and, later, the "standing up" of Support Division in the Directorate of Contracting during its reformation.

Mrs. Blixt has a lengthy list of accomplishments during her 31 plus year career. A significant achievement was receiving the Secretary of the Army Award for her contributions to the Army's small and disadvantaged business utilization programs (FY2000). She is a previous recipient of Commander and Superior Civilian Service Awards. Her retirement means we will miss her expertise, the sound judgment, the acquisition excellence, and "can do" spirit her leadership embodied. But most of all, Carole will be missed for the bright smile she freely gave to all with whom she came in contact!



## PREVENTING SNOW MELT WATER PROBLEMS

The large snow depth this year holds lots of water. Each cubic foot of drifted, piled or compacted snow contains 2 to 3 gallons of water. Actions taken now can minimize future water problems. Eave-trough down spouts should carry the water several feet from a house to a well-drained area. About 2,500 gallons of water will come from a 1,000 square foot roof with one foot of snow depth across the roof. This much water may cause problems if allowed to drain next to the house. Move snow on the ground away from the house. Snowmelt water may cause a wet basement if allowed to run down along the basement wall. If the ground is sloped 1 inch per foot near the house, moving the snow just 3-5 feet from the house will reduce problems. Examine and clean both the sump pump and pit. Test your sump pump by pouring water into the pit. Make sure the discharge hose carries the water several feet away from the house to a well-drained area. Also make sure that the pipe is on sloped ground so it drains to prevent it from freezing. Remove snow from around rural yards to minimize soft, wet soil conditions. Remember that a 20-foot diameter 10-foot high pile of snow contains about 2,600 gallons of water. Move the snow to well drained areas.



The Army Contracting Agency cordially invites each of our readers to write a short paragraph in answer to the question: "What is your idea of customer service?" Please be specific of how this action can best be achieved.





## ACA TEAM POINTS OF CONTACT

### **Area of Expertise**

Executive Officer  
Administrative Assistant  
Contingency Contracting  
Information Technology  
& Electronic Commerce  
Resource Management  
Budget  
  
Army level II Purchase Card  
Personnel  
Manpower  
SADBUO  
LNOS/IMA  
Business Systems  
Metrics

### **ACA Member**

Nicki Knickerbocker  
Barbara Hull  
Timothy Pugh  
Vera Davis  
  
Bruce Trimble  
Karen Alston  
JoAnne Ramage  
Alice Williams  
Kathleen Walker-Starks  
Dexter Alexander  
Bob Adams  
Suellen Jeffress  
LTC (P) Jesse Stone  
William Swan

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### **A Word from the Editor**

We would like to involve our readers in playing a more active role in guiding the publication. As always, we continue to invite our readers to provide their ideas, views, and opinions. If you have comments and/or suggestions for the newsletter on how we can continue to improve the publication, please don't hesitate to let me know. Email your comments to [Shirlee.Knickerbocker@SAALT.army.mil](mailto:Shirlee.Knickerbocker@SAALT.army.mil) or call me at DSN 761-9158. DISTRIBUTION D: Distribution authorized to DoD and US DoD Contractors only. Other requests for this document shall be referred to: U.S. Army Contracting Agency, ATTN: SFCA (Nicki Knickerbocker), 5109 Leesburg Pike, Skyline 6, Suite 302, Falls Church, VA 22041-3201, or request by Email to [shirlee.knickerbocker@saalt.army.mil](mailto:shirlee.knickerbocker@saalt.army.mil).  
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